CIRCULAR.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA,
WAR DEPARTMENT,
Richmond, Va., December 10, 1863.

The following additional instructions are published for the information and guidance of medical officers and employed physicians on conscript duty:

1. Attention is urgently called to the requirements of General Orders, No. 22, in connection with section 1, paragraph IV, of which it is further required, that in all cases of debility, the cause to which it is attributable, or upon which it is consequent, be closely investigated as to its temporary or permanent nature, and that this cause be set forth in all certificates and reports required from Medical Boards for the examination of conscripts.

2. In rheumatism, not only its duration, and its nature, whether acute or chronic, articular or muscular, must be determined and designated, but also whether there be swelling, contraction of the joints, waste of tissues, or any accompanying deformity.

3. Very many dyspeptics are benefited, if not entirely relieved by the change of life, and the active duties of a soldier in the field. Dyspepsia, therefore, unless of an extremely aggravated character, and accompanied with much emaciation and debility, is not accepted as authority for exemption.

4. Large numbers of the subjects of urethral stricture, as a general rule, perform, and are capable of performing the active duties of civil and military life. This, then, unless of an aggravated character, will not be recognized as a cause for exemption.

5. The mere determination and announcement of the existence of such diseases as scrofula, hepatitis, spinal irritation and cachexia, do not warrant exemption: their special seat, degree of development, and the consequent disqualifying condition, as well as the general state of the system, must be discerned and intelligibly reported.

6. In cases of atrophy of the limbs, definite and satisfactory explanations must be made as to its cause, extent, and the accompanying loss of power.

7. In tuberculosis, the extent of the disease should, as far as practica-

ble, be diagnosed, and full statements made as to the loss of flesh, and other prominent symptoms.

8. Whenever discernible, in all cases not accepted, the degree or extent, and the seat and duration of the existing disability should be distinctly set forth.

9. All cases, of which the decision is doubtful, according to instructions herein published, or now in force, concerning special diseases, will be decided upon the following principle, viz:

When a conscript is found equal to, or in the performance of the active duties of the various occupations of civil life, he is able to discharge the duties of a soldier.

10. Conscripts previously examined and reported, on being again entered on the Record of Conscripts, will be noted "Re-examination."

11. When an exemption is only temporary, it will be distinctly noted in the Monthly Record of Conscripts as a "temporary exemption;" and the terms "furloughed" and "discharged" will not be used therein, or in certificates, instead of, or in the place of the terms *temporarily exempted*, and *exempted*.

12. Members of the Examining Boards are prohibited from recommending furloughs to conscripts. In connection with this prohibition, their attention is called to paragraph I, General Orders, No. 135, current series, here quoted for their information, viz:

"I. Recruiting officers and others are forbidden to grant permits to conscripts or deserters, allowing them to visit their homes, or to remain there for any purpose. The notice already given conscripts is deemed sufficient, and deserters are not entitled to indulgence."

13. The concluding clause of paragraph XI, General Orders, No. 39, current series, Adjutant and Inspector General's office, prohibits the granting of temporary exemptions for a "period beyond thirty days."

14. Temporary exemptions will not be granted for the purpose of allowing conscripts to hunt up evidence of disability. If proper certificates are not presented on their appearance before the Examining Board, the action of the Examining Board will be based solely on the opinion formed from personal examination. Certificates, either from medical officers or private physicians, unless sustained by the opinion of the board, will not influence its action.

15. Temporary exemptions will not be granted in cases of trivial disability or of a temporary nature, in which recovery can be as satisfactorily accomplished at the camp of instruction as at their places of residence.

16. Temporary exemptions are not to be granted at all, except in cases

of acute or serious disease or injury, where the disability is probably not permanent.

17. When the conscript, by reason of alleged infirmity, cannot appear before the board, and his case cannot be examined and reported upon by a medical officer, the certificate of the local enrolling officer, on personal inspection, accompanied by a physician's certificate, will be accepted as a satisfactory reason for his non-appearance.

18. In the examination of men, not subject to conscription, for *acceptance as substitutes*, the members of the Examining Board for Conscripts are instructed to carefully guard the interests of the service, not only by a rigid search for existing disqualifying defects, but by the institution of a close scrutiny as to the probability of the future development or the reappearance of disabling affections, to which men are more subject in declining life.

19. In accordance with the requirements of paragraph VII, General Orders, No. 141, current series, A. & I. G. O., no person will be received as a substitute who does not meet the full requirements of paragraph 48, Medical Regulations.

20. The decision of the Examining Board for Conscripts is final against all other medical tribunals, except the action taken at camps of instruction, in accordance with paragraph II, General Orders, No. 107, and their own revision, as authorized in General Orders from the Adjutant and Inspector General's department, or directed by the Surgeon General, upon finding the causes alleged for exemption, in the Record of Conscripts, to be invalid.

JAS. A. SEDDON,
Secretary of War.